

DIARY DATES - SPEAKERS

JANUARY 2024

- 1st** **Bank Holiday – no meeting**
- 8th** **Bishop Saju, Bishop of Loughborough**
New Year's Message
(Vote of Thanks: Tara Pankhania)
- 15th** **Chris Mitchell**
Flt Lt Shawn Whitehead—Air Cadets
- 22nd** **Kevin Downham**
Grief and Bereavement Support
- 29th** **Peter Hewlett**
'What's in a Name?'

TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

The Technology Tournament is on Thursday 15 February and I am seeking volunteers to help with preparation and roles on the day, including judging. At present I do not know how many teams will be taking part and therefore how many judges we will need, but there are roles to fill throughout day. For those who have not been involved before, the event itself takes place from 8:30am to 3pm at Leicester Grammar School.

If you are interested in helping, please email me indicating whether you want to be involved on the day or in preparation tasks or both. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Nick Thomson

RICHARD POWER MBE

The club is delighted to read that Richard Power has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List. The citation, in the Overseas and International List, reads: "Richard POWER, Orthopaedic Surgeon, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust; Chair, Health Action Leicester in Ethiopia. For services to Health in Gondar, Northern Ethiopia".
Congratulations Richard—fully deserved.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please submit to Bulletin Editor, David Brunton,
by 22nd January 2024

ROTARY CLUB OF LEICESTER

Meetings at the Grand commencing at 12.25
Apologies: Telephone 0116 2233950 or e-mail :
johannedraycott@pickeverard.co.uk

Immediate Past President:	Nick Thomson
President Elect:	Ed Cufflin
Junior Vice-President:	TBC
Honorary Treasurer:	David Brunton
Honorary Secretary:	Richard Power
Honorary Assistant Secretary:	Chetna Jansari
Impact Group Chair	Diana Esho

Elected Council Members

Mark Simpson, Babs Marson, Clive Smith,
Diana Esho, Parmdeep Vadesha, Harmeet Singh

Other Contacts:

District Council Representatives: Moira Bartlett,
John Saunders and Rodney Spokes
Bulletin Editor: David Brunton
Club Protection Officer: George Atwill

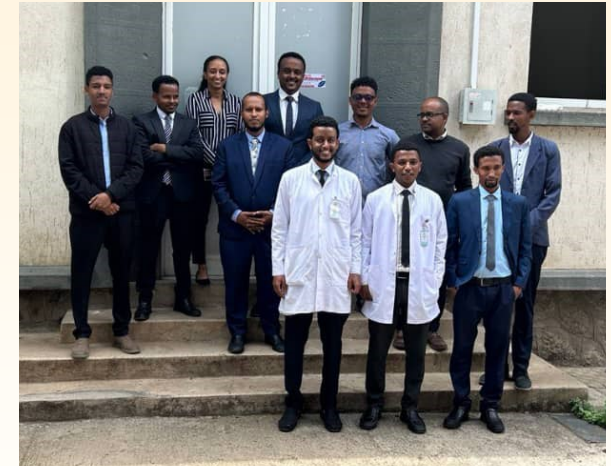
LEAD COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Club Service	Gordon Arthur
Membership	Parmdeeo Vadesha
Service Projects	Moira Bartlett
Rotary Foundation/Benevolent	David Howard
Communications	Diana Esho

PRESIDENT - TARA PANKHANIA

BULLETIN - JANUARY 2024

GONDAR UPDATE



Nearly four years have passed since a small team including myself, Tim Beacon from Medical Aid International, my Scrub Assistant Sarah Shawkat and my late stepson Jeremy Pennell travelled to Gondar and unpacked all the equipment from its shipping container.

At the time we were unable to give the go-ahead for any surgery as building work was still ongoing. Unfortunately the World Covid Lockdown and subsequent Tigray conflict prevented us returning for the next two and a half years. However all the equipment came into constant use, albeit for treating war casualties rather than the usual day-to-day trauma. The Department itself continued to develop and I am now pleased to report that there are now 10 Orthopaedic Surgeons trained in Addis Ababa with more in the pipeline.

Cont/d.....

The Department now has its own Training Programme with the first two graduates: Dr Desalign Talu and Dr Wodaje Melese (pictured) graduating in 2023.

From the opening of the new Operating Theatre in July 2020 until December 2023 the surgeons have carried out 3,978 surgical procedures, which is remarkable considering that five years ago the department consisted of one surgeon with no equipment. There is still much to be done to improve ward nursing care and equipment maintenance.

Richard Power

ROTARY CLUB OF LEICESTER IMPACT CLUB LAPTOP, TORCHES, MAGNIFYING GLASSES AND SCHOOL UNIFORM APPEAL



Back in July 2023 Rotarian Diana Esho put a call out on LinkedIn for anyone who would be interested in donating laptops, magnifying glasses or torches. These items would go to a group of children with various visual impairments at a school in The Gambia, and would enable the children to see written text and improve their chances of gaining a good education.

The LinkedIn post was quickly gained interest from Paul Howard from Infuse Technology, Vicky Ball from Impact Air Systems and Hazel Pattison from Edmonds and Slatter Business Eyecare. Paul expressed an interest in donating reconditioned laptops, Vicky and Hazel wanted to donate boxes of torches and magnifying glasses. Diana spoke to the donors who promptly donated sent six laptops and boxes of torches, batteries and magnifying glasses with and without lights.

The children, of which there were 15, live in extremely poor conditions and also needed new uniforms for the new school term. Diana asked members of the Rotary Club of Leicester Impact Group, which she chairs, via WhatsApp, and within 30 minutes the money to have 15 new uniforms made by a tailor in The Gambia for each child was promised; the icing on the cake came when a Rotarian (who wishes to remain anonymous) donated funds to pay for the items to be shipped.



In early December, 3 months after the initial request for support, the items arrived. Each one of the 15 children were given their new uniforms and great progress has already been made.

The school teacher who supports the educational needs for these children has sent a heartfelt message to those who were part of this much needed support.

“On behalf of myself, and the children you have supported I'd like to send a big, big thank you. A small gesture of kindness has made and will continue to have an huge impact on these childrens lives. If we can continue to support this group of children and others like them with a school uniform and more supplies throughout 2024 it would be absolutely amazing ”.

If you would like to support these children with another uniform, shoes, books or more laptops please contact Diana Esho, Chair of the Rotary Club of Leicester Impact Group

<https://rotary-leicester.org.uk/contact-us/>



CURRY NIGHT

A date for your diary. A Curry Night is planned for **Tuesday 6 February 2024**. Please support and enjoy this great fundraising night out.